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March 6, 2001

The Honorable Greg Ganske  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ganske:

On behalf of the American Dental Association (ADA), I thank you for sponsoring H.R. 526, the "Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001." This comprehensive legislation would help ensure that all Americans with private health insurance receive the health care they deserve. Accordingly, the ADA is pleased to endorse H.R. 526, and we look forward to working with you to secure its passage.

We are particularly pleased that your bill protects dental patients in the same manner as medical patients. With new research pointing to possible associations between chronic oral infections and such conditions as diabetes, low-birth-weight infancy and cardiovascular disease, it is only appropriate that oral health be viewed as integral to overall health.

H.R. 526 also contains provisions to ensure that all Americans receive comprehensive information about their health plans' restrictions and limitations, can see the doctor of their choice, have access to timely and effective internal and external appeals systems, and, when necessary, can hold a health plan accountable when its actions cause harm.

We applaud your leadership in forging this bipartisan compromise, and we look forward to working with you and all other proponents of comprehensive managed care reform to enact a law this year. If we can be of any assistance to you, in this or any other matter, please contact Ms. Dorothy J. Moss, Associate Executive Director, Government Affairs for the ADA at (202) 789-5160.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Anderton, D.D.S., J.D., LL.M.  
President

RMA:bp